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MERGER BILL (National Security Act of 1947)

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29 April 1947

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD.

At the hearings of the House Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments this morning, Rep. James W. Wadsworth, (R., N.Y.), observed that the bill apparently contemplated the appointment of military men to the position of Director of Central Intelligence, and added, "I doubt the wisdom of that." Secretary of War Patterson replied that the appointment of a military man was discretionary as to whether a military man or a civilian should be chosen, but that it was necessary to make specific provisions to permit the naming of a military man. He added that the Directors of Central Intelligence so far have been Army or Navy men -- men who have had experience in the field of foreign intelligence -- and that he thought it would be unwise to exclude such men from the post. Wadsworth replied that his comment had no reference to the present Director of Central Intelligence who, he understood, was very efficient.

Rep. Mitchell Jenkins, (R., Pa.), asked whether the omission of CIG functions was in keeping with the general policy of omitting detailed functions of any branch of the service from the bill, to which Secretary Patterson replied he believed so. Jenkins then asked whether Army and Navy intelligence would be eliminated, to which Patterson replied in the negative. He explained that the Executive Directive setting up the CIG provided that it should coordinate and correlate the information received by the various departments. Jenkins inquired how the CIG got its information from the departments. Patterson replied that the Army, Navy and State Departments were represented on a board at CIG which made the arrangements with those departments for the forwarding of material to CIG. He added, "I believe it has worked very well." He also referred to the NIA set-up and again added that it had worked well. In conclusion, Jenkins asked Patterson for a copy of the Executive Directive establishing the CIG, and the Secretary agreed to supply one.

Rep. Wadsworth asked if Secretary Patterson had any objection to amending Section 202(b) to provide specifically that a Marine officer would be eligible for the post of Director of Central Intelligence. Patterson replied that he did not think that it was necessary to mention the Marine Corps by name, since the Navy was included, but that he had no objection.

Copy of Directive furnished
Jenkins by WLP on 30 April.

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